

AN
ACCOUNT
OF THE
FRENCH Usurpation
UPON THE
Trade of England.

And what great damage the *English*
do yearly sustain by their Commerce, and
how the same may be retrenched, and
England improved in Riches and Interest.

J. B.



L O N D O N :

Printed in the Year, MDCLXXIX.

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SIR,

I Received yours, and do pay you the greatest tribute of thanks, for your excellent Remarques upon the present state of Affairs in *Europe*, and must have the same Sentiments, and do admire with you, that *France*, which (not many years since) was so weak and feeble, that it trembled at the very Name of the Dukes of *Burgundy*, should now be so potent, as to contrast the mightiest Powers of *Europe*. *Lewis* the II. paid to the King of *England* fifty thousand Crowns, yearly, to be his Friend, and sixteen thousand Crowns to his Ministers of State to keep him so.

Henry the IV. having the Carcass of an inconsiderable Ship in the Stocks, received sharp Messages from *Queen Elizabeth* of *England* to desist, which accordingly he did; and that *Queen* lent unto him, and disbursed for him, four millions of pounds sterling, to support his Wars, and had Towns of Caution for them.

Within these few years *France* had not above twelve Gallies, and twenty men of War, (as they called them) and was not able to put them to Sea, and keep them there, for want of money; the yearly Revenues of that Crown then not exceeding ten millions of Florens.

But of late, the *French* King is tapred up to that magnitude of Power, so potent in the best Squadrons of Ships at Sea, so powerful in the most experienced Captains and Troops at Land, so rich in Treasure, (the Revenues of the present King amounting unto sixty millions of Florens yearly) that *Europe* begins to bow to his Power; and to declare unto all Christian

Princes what he intends, he hath taken to himself this Motto,
Solus contra omnes.

His Designs are so vast, that in some short time all *Europe* will not be Elbow-room for his Ambition.

How *France* hath of late arrived to this Power, and Pyramid of Grandeur, it's well becoming the wisdom of the most considerate person to enquire.

It's not from the richness of their Soyl, nor the amplitude of Territory, (*Spain* having much greater.) *France* hath no Mines of Gold or Silver as *Hungary* and *Bohemia*, nor other rich Mines as *Germany* and other places have, yet by their natural and artificial Commodities, peradventure their stock of money doth not fall much short of the money of the rest of all *Europe*.

The Images of great things are best seen contracted into small Glasses: By their Wines (the natural Riches of *France*) they draw out of the Northern Regions of *Europe*, twenty five millions of Florens; for Salt, ten millions of Florens; for Brandy, five millions; for Wines, Brandy and Salt, they yearly exhaust from thence forty millions of Florens.

For their Silks, Stuffs, Toys and Fripperies, (which are the artificial Riches of that Kingdom) they spirit out of those Parts yearly forty millions of Florens; and there is not imported into *France* of the Commodities of all the North, so much as doth amount unto fifteen millions of Florens: So that *France* doth yearly drain out of the Northern Regions of *Europe*, sixty five millions of Florens; the prodigious sum of money which he doth yearly drain out of the rest of *Europe*, is beyond my Arithmetick to tell you.

But the most Christian King being Lord of the Commerce of that Kingdom, and being studious to accumulate money, and careful to bring in more daily, and rarely suffers any to go out, and being provident to dispose of all his Merchandise and Manufactures abroad, and not permitting any foreign Commodities to be imported into *France*, but such as are incumbered with such great Duties, that they return to no profit to the Merchants, *France* will in a short time draw into them all the moneys of *Europe*:

The

The most Christian King having for his Royal Revenue sixty millions of Florens yearly, and *France* being enriched yearly as abovesaid, and by his supream Power, without any check or control, may impose what Taxes and Impositions upon his people he shall please, (and they willingly submit thereunto) he hath laid such an inexhaustable *Urdm* of Treasure to carry on his Designs, & he being very active and circumspect) that he can rarely be disappointed or fail in any.

By this all submit to his Power: This makes the *Ephemerides*, by which he knows how all the Orbs of many Princes Courts move; by it he can work all things Platonically to his own Idea; to its splendor and lustre, the World, the safety of the Common-wealth, and the love of liberty, do humbly prostrate themselves; and to deal plainly with you, it's the source of all the miseries and infelicities of *Europe*.

Hence it is that *France* not long since so impotent, can now maintain such stupendious Forces, and can support their Armies, when other Princes are enforced to beg for peace, and disband their Armies, because their Treasures are exhausted: *France* only after many years War can engage in a new War, and upon all occasions, by reason of its money, have in store to execute their Designs; and truly, Sir, money is the *primum mobile* which moves the Spears, which are the hearts and hands of men, and it's the sovereign Cordial, which gives life to all noble Actions and Designs.

The most Christian King hath set up the *East* and *West-Indian* Trades, and hath engaged in them most of the rich Nobility and Gentry of that Kingdom, and hath armed them with ample Priviledges, Powers and Immunities, and hath erected several other trading Companies, and certainly he hath thereby laid a foundation of a greater Empire than ever was in *Charlemain*.

By his Moneys and Priviledges he draweth most of the best Workmen and Artists, out of the other parts of *Europe* into *France*, and the Materials too; when they are there manufactured, they make a *Mittimus*, and send them into the Countries from whence they came: But if any from thence be imported,

ported into *France*, they are seized upon, being forbidden Goods, as they pretend, or else so incumbered with Duties by them, that *Europe* can have no profit or encouragement to trade with *France*.

By these Arts, *France* with its Manufactures and Commodities, and those which will be drawn from the *East* and *West-Indies*, will surcharge all the Marts of *Europe*; and the most Christian King having so great a Treasure, may under-sell his Merchandise and Goods, on design to break all other Merchants and Traders, and so in consequence will have the Trade and Commerce of the Universe in their hands, and we must be content to take their Commodities and Merchandises at such prices and rates, as they shall please to impose upon them.

And all other Princes and States must become Higlrs and petty Chapmen under them.

Trade is the true and intrinsic Interest of *England*, without which it cannot subsist: From Trade there doth not only arise Riches to the Subjects, rendring a Nation considerable, but also increase of Revenue, and therein power and strength to the Sovereign; and *England* having so potent a Neighbour, it's absolutely necessary for its preservation to advance it; for every Nation is more or less considerable, according to the proportion it hath of Trade, and it's more or less enriched by the ballance of its foreign Trade. If *France* vent more of our Commodities than we consume of theirs in value, the overplus returns to us in Treasure; but if *France* consume less of ours than we of their Commodities, *England* will be impoverished; for that Treasure which is brought in by the ballance of our foreign Trade doth only enrich us.

How the balance of Trade stands between *England* and *France*, it's worthy of your grave Consideration.

The *French* King not long since having a design to prohibit all Trade with *England*, the *French* Merchants not well resenting it, petitioned his Majesty to the contrary. and delivered a Certificate unto the most Christian King, of all the Commodities by them exported, and of all the *English* Manufactures and Commodities by them imported into *France*, which was as followeth.

There

There is transported out of *France* into *England* great quantities of Velvets, plain and wrought, Sattins plain and wrought, Cloth of gold and silver, Armoyfins, and other Merchandises of Silk, which are made at *Lyons*, and are valued to be yearly worth one hundred and fifty thousand pounds.

In Silks, Stuffs, Taffaties, Poadefoyes, Armoyfins, Cloths of gold and silver, Tabbies plain and wrought, Silks, Ribbons, and other such like Stuffs as are made at *Toures*, valued to be worth above three hundred thousand pounds by the year.

In silk Ribbons, Gellowns, Laces, and Buttons of silk, which are made at *Paris*, *Rouen*, *Chaimont*, *St. Estienes in Forreft*, above a hundred and fifty thousand pounds by the year.

A great quantity of Serges which are made at *Chalon*, *Charles*, *Estimines* and *Rhemes*, and good quantities of Serges made at *Amiens*, *Creveceour*, *Blicourt*, and other Towns in *Picardy*, above one hundred and fifty thousand pounds a year.

In Bever, Demicasters, and Felt-Hats, made in the City and Suburbs of *Paris*, besides many other made at *Rouen*, *Lyons*, and other places, above one hundred and twenty thousand pounds a year.

In Feathers, Belts, Girdles, Hat-bands, Fans, Hoods, Masks, gilt and wrought looking-Glasses, Cabinets, Watches, Pictures, Cases, Medals, Bracelets, and other like mercenary War, above one hundred and fifty thousand pounds a year.

In Pins, Needles, Box-Combs, Tortois-shell-Combs, and such like, above twenty thousand pounds a year.

In Papers of all sorts which are made at *Anvergane*, *Poiton*, *Limosin*, *Champaigne* and *Normany*, about one hundred thousand pounds a year.

In Perfume and trimmed Gloves, which are made at *Paris*, *Rouen*, *Vendosm*, *Chremont*, and other places, about ten thousand pounds a year.

In all sorts of Iron-mongers Wares that are made in *Forrests*, *Annergine*, and other places, about forty thousand pounds a year.

In linnen Cloth that's made in *Britany* and *Normandy*, as well course as fine, there's transported into *England* above four hundred thousand pounds a year.

In Household-stuff, consisting of Beds, Matresses, Coverlets, Hangings, Fringes of silk, and other Furnitures, above one hundred thousand pounds a year.

In Wines from *Gascogne*, *Nantois*, and other places on the River of *Loye*, and also from *Bordeaux*, *Rochel*, *Nants*, *Rouen*, and other places, are transported into *England* above six hundred thousand pounds a year.

In *Aqua-vite*, Sider, Vinegar, Verjuice, and such like, above one hundred thousand pounds a year.

In Saffron, Castile-Soap, Honey, Almonds, Olives, Capers, Prunes, and such like, above one hundred and fifty thousand pounds a year.

Besides five or six hundred Vessels of Salt, laden at *Marone*, *Rochel*, *Borage*, the Isle of *Oloron*, and Isle of *Rhee*, transported into *England* and *Holland*, of a very great value.

So that by this it doth appear, that the yearly value of such Commodities as are transported from *France* into *England*, amount unto above six and twenty hundred thousand pounds.

And the Commodities exported out of *England* into *France*, consisting chiefly of woollen Cloaths, Serges, knit Stockings, Lead, Pewter, Allum, Coals, and other Commodities, which do not amount unto above ten hundred thousand pounds a year.

By which it appears, that our Trade with *France*, is at least sixteen hundred thousand pounds *per annum* clear loss to this Kingdom.

The *French* King hereupon laid aside his Design: So that in few years (if some timely Expedient be not applied) all the money of this Nation will be drawn into *France*, there being not above eight millions (if so much) of pounds in this Kingdom, which will be the impoverishing of *England*, but greatly to the enriching of *France*; and they melting down the Coyn of *England*, by their allay gain near one third.

France by our sloth flourish; by our folly grow wise; by our excess wax proud; by our money, rich; by the valour of *England* made potent, and enabled to fight against us.

As the middle Region of the Air is wont to frame its Thunder-

der-bolts, Hail, and dreadful Thunder, against the Earth, out of the Exhalations it draws from the Earth it self; so *France*, out of the Riches and Substance which it gathereth from *Europe*, and the Kingdoms and Dominions thereof, doth raise formidable Armies, and potent Fleets against them.

New Maxims must be framed, and Measures taken, for the retrenchment of the Power of *France*, or else I can foretell, without the help of an *Augur*, what will be the Fate of *England*. Enfeeble the Trade of *France*, and money will fail, and by consequence its potency will become impotent; for Trade is the fountain from whence its Riches spring, and Money is the basis of its greatness and strength.

The Parliament with great wisdom and judgement, hath prohibited *England* all Trade or Commerce with *France*; and *France* cannot take it ill, when the most Christian King had the same design upon *England*, but that he observed it would turn to loss: It's no prudence to admit those Manufactures and Commodities into *England*, wherewith we now abound, or may have better than from *France*.

And no reason of Commerce requireth, that we should be injurious to our selves, to be serviceable to the advantages of others; the Emperor by Edict doth exclude the *Hungarian* Wines, and many other things of the growth of that Kingdom, out of *Austria*, that they of *Austria* may consume and dispose of their own.

And as for Wines, *England* may have them from *Hungary*, *Austria*, *Tirol*, *Franconia*, *Rhene*, *Mosel*, *Portugal*, and elsewhere, at better rates and cheaper, than out of *France*; and the Princes of those Countries will take off the Manufactures and native Commodities of *England* for them, and by that means we may settle Trade upon a solid Basis with them.

How far these generous Wines do exceed those of *France*, *Augustus* the Emperor, if he were alive, would tell you, who when he possessed *Italy*, *Spain*, *Creta*, *Greece*, *Egypt*, and the richest parts of *Africa*, *Asia* and *Europe*, he would drink no other Wines; for these receive esteem, dignity and value from their age and antiquity, and contribute much to health, (if moderately taken;) whereas the *French* Wines procure no-

thing but sharp and tartarous humours, and as now adulterated in *France*, they are pernicious unto us: The Wines of *France*, if compared with the other, are insipid, and of no value; all the Wines of *France* from their nativity, will scarce bear the age of one year, and some of them before the Month of *August*, in the same year in which they grew, are corrupted; from whence it followeth, that they must be drunk corrupted or new, in both cases dangerous to our health.

Brandy is a Liquor very fatal to us, and it had been well for *England* if we never had heard of it; yet if we do so much admire it, though we have no Grapes here, yet it may be drawn off from Corn, and there is no better than that which is so drawn in *Sarmatia*, and drunk by the *Poles*.

As for Salt, if the making of it were encouraged, there might be made much better here in *England* than we have from *France*. That worthy and publick-spirited Person *Richard Alcorn* Esq; by his Salt-works near *Portsmouth*, is an excellent president for the whole Nation: The Salt of *France* is gross, foul, black, corrosive, and by no means to be compared with that of *England*.

If you take two Vessels of equal magnitude, and fill the one with *English*, and the other with *French* Salt, and decoct them, the *English* decreaseth less by one third part than the *French*; if the *English* Salt be recocted, and a requisite quantity of Sea-water added, the *English* Salt doth increase one third more than the *French*; what great loss by one, and advantage by the other, doth accrew, is worthy of due consideration.

The *English* Salt by reason of its purity and extraordinary efficacy, cures Fish or Flesh better, goes further in use, preserves longer than any unrefined Salt; the Fish or Flesh saved with it, is much more wholesom to the body, pleasant and grateful to the taste, which is the reason that the *Dutch* have better prices for their Fish than the *English*, and a greater Trade, because they are cured with refined Salt. It will be of singular use in hot Climates, because it pierceth so much quicker than Salt unrefined, and corned by the Sun, and will by consequence preserve either Fish or Flesh better and longer; whereas

whereas the unrefined Salt in hot Climates, by reason of its corroding quality, doth decay very suddently either Fish or Flesh, and in any Climate robs the Flesh of its gravy and moisture, makes it dry and hard, and so prejudicial to the body. The great benefit of the *English* Salt in curing Fish, the Company of the Royal Fishery can give a very great account thereof: To give encouragement to the making of Salt here in *England*, (which they may do, not only to serve *England* with Salt, but in the *Baltick*, *West-Indies*, and elsewhere) is to impose some great Duty upon foreign Salt, which will increase his Majesties Revenue, if they shall continue to bring it into this Kingdom, and to impose half so much upon the *English* Salt, as shall be imposed upon the foreign, which the makers of Salt are willing to pay, because *English* Salt (by reason of the great quantities of foreign Salt imported in some parts of this Kingdom) is sold at six pence per Bushel, whereas formerly it hath been sold at four shillings per Bushel.

It will much increase home-Trade, by causing great sums of money to circulate ; it will give employment to many persons which now beg, steal, or otherwise live in a miserable and poor condition.

It will very much increase Navigation, by employing great numbers of Vessels to bring Coals to the Salt-works, and to carry Salt to Markets ; whereas foreign Salt is imported by return of freight or foreign Vessels.

The *United Provinces* of the *Netherlands* did for some time by publick Edict, prohibit all Wines, Salt and Brandy, and the Manufactures of *France*, as foreign Commodities, and not for them needful.

If the Emperor and other Princes of *Germany*, by their pragmatick Sanctions, had done the like, *France* would have lost those prodigious and vast sums of money, which, to the impoverishing of many parts of *Europe*, it hath drawn into them ; thereupon their Trade would have decayed, their Money failed, and by consequence their Power would have abated.

Their Wines, Brandy, Salt, and other their Manufactures, would have layn upon their hands, their people, for want of

employment, must have begged, and then if his most Christian Majesty should have continued Taxes upon them, it would have hazarded their obedience; and certainly nothing hath hitherto kept that people within the circle of their duty, but the great encouragement the most Christian King hath given to Trade, for thereby they are imployed, and their thoughts taken off from breaking out into any Action or Distemper.

All *French* wrought, figured, flowered, brassed, stitched, stripe Silks and Drogets, Tamines and Estimens, Serges, and other Stuffs made of Wooll, together with Madam la Mode, being proscribed *England*, all due encouragement must be given to the Weavers. The *English* have arrived to a very great perfection in weaving of Silks, and other Stuffs made of Wooll; but by reason of the Importation of *French* Commodities, they have (for want of imployment) been burthensom and chargeable to their respective Parishes; and many Strangers, which have come into *England* to work here, by reason they found so little imployment, they returned into their own Countries again: It will be prudence in us to encourage Strangers to work here, but not to give countenance to foreign Traders.

The *English* have paid yearly for the manufacturing of the *French* Weavers Silks, besides Stuffs, which might have been better wrought by the *English* here, and which are generally paid for with money, not with other Commodities, the sum of five hundred four thousand one hundred and ten pounds: So that allowing to every person working Silk, fifteen pounds *per annum*, it would imploy 33000 persons, which number were they well imployed here, would be considerably advantageous to this Kingdom; and it's evident, that *England* hath hitherto maintained the *French* King's Subjects at work, whilst the Natives here have been ready to starve for want thereof.

It's great prudence in the Parliament, that they have absolutely proscribed all these *French* Commodities and Manufactures, and not to impose some great Duty upon them, as some designed, because much of the *French* Commodities (by small Ships or Shallops) are privately conveyed hither, without

out paying any Custom : It's demonstratively true, that not one piece in twenty is entred or paid for, to the deceit of his Majestie, and the impoverishing of his good Subjects here.

The Woollen Drapery, which formerly was our glory, and brought much Riches to us, and imployed not fewer than 700000 persons, must be encouraged : It's to be feared, that of late not one third part of the Wooll which is growing in this Nation, is consumed in that Manufacture ; but it's sent over to our Neighbours, and they buying most of the Wooll growing in *Ireland*, they have almost gotten the Manufacture from us, and we undone, the prices of Wooll being so low, (the Manufacture failing) that if people did not send it beyond Seas, they would not in many places be able to pay half their Rent, Wooll falling in value as much as Land.

It was an observation of the Lord *Burleigh*, that if Wooll sell one shilling in the Stone, it's a million a year loss to this Nation. If this observation be true, I pray Sir consider, how many millions this Nation hath lost, and how much we may suffer, ere we can recover our Manufacture and Trade again.

Till the 5th. of *Edward* the III. most of the Wooll which was growing in *England*, was sent over into *Flanders*, *Hannolt* and *Artoys*, to be draped into Stuff, Cloth, and Stockings ; *Edward* the III. looking upon it as a great loss to this Nation, brought over 70 Families of *Walloon*s into *England*, and they did teach the *English* the Manufacture of the woollen Drapery ; an advantage so great to this Nation, that none of his Predecessors did ever effect any thing to compare with it, and what Riches it brought to us, we can tell you by the sad loss of it.

The late Statute, which by the great Wisdom of the Parliament, was enacted for burying in Flannel, if it be rationally considered, and duely put in execution, and Informers encouraged, is great in consequence, and will consume much of our Wooll, and preserve the linnen Cloth for making of Paper, which will save this Nation some hundred thousand pounds a year.

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Those Artists in *Flanders* which are so excellent in working Tapistry and other Hangings, are much desired by the *French* King to come into *France*, and inhabit there ; but he hath not prevailed with them ; if they might receive countenance from *England*, I doubt not but many of them would come over, and inhabit here, which would be a great enriching of this Nation, and would imploy in that Manufacture, some great part of the stock of Wooll of this Nation.

For want of Imployment, many of our Weavers go over into *France*, to whom that King gives great priviledges and countenance ; their Friends here send them over Wooll, and the Manufacture in a little time will follow after.

The linnen Drapery would be of great advantage to this Nation, if it received due encouragement ; no Nation produceth better Hemp and Flax than *England*, the sowing of which would be a great improvement ; and if the *English* were enjoyned by Act of Parliament, under some penalty, (and a considerable part of that penalty given to the Informer) to sow yearly so many Acres of Hemp and Flax, in proportion to the Land they occupy, it would return to great profit. The *English* have found out the best means, not heretofore practised, for the dressing and preparing of Hemp and Flax ; and there are many persons living in *Cambray*, *Vallentine*, and other parts in *France*, which would come over and live here, if they might be encouraged ; and then we might here in *England* make Hollands, Diapers, Damasks, and other fine Cloth, not only to furnish this Nation, but other parts of the World ; and would likewise draw to us the Manufactures of making the *French* Sail-Cloaths, and all kind of Tackling concerning Ships, in small and big Cordage, Twine, Yarn, Thread, Nets, Cable-ropes, which would enrich this Nation yearly at the least 900000 *l*.

It would be a great instance of Wisdom, to set up the Royal Fishery here in *England*, and to countenance it with Priviledges and Immunities ; certainly, Sir, it's so necessary, that without it his Majesty will want Sea-men for his Royal Navy ; for his Majesty must so increase his Royal Power, that he be superior to neighbour Princes and States, or else I can easily foretel what will be the Fate of *England*. This

This being established, the making of Sail-Cloaths, Ropes, Tackle, Nets, Cables, and also Salt, which are the necessary attendants upon the Fishery, would be much encouraged.

But, Sir, you must not expect that the Fishery is to be carried on by any private persons; it must be the publick Act of the State, the Laws, Powers, and management thereof, must be settled by Act of Parliament, a good *Fundus* and Bank of Money must be raised for its advance and encouragement, otherwise it will return to no account, and every small loss which shall fall upon it, will be the overthrow and dissolution of the whole, as it hath been heretofore found by experience.

The Company of the Royal Fishery being well established, and taking their measures rightly, it will in a short time so increase in Riches, that upon any exigency of State, it will be able to advance considerable sums of money for the service of the Publick; all persons which have money will place it in this Company, if they might be sure to have the product and effects of it, being the best means for Fathers to raise Portions for their Children, and all other persons to improve their Estates, and enrich themselves.

It will be the only means to make the Subject rich, by the circulation of Money; for a Nation may be rich in Coin, and yet the people poor, when it's gotten into few hands; and that State is in no thriving condition, when at the end of the Game, most of the money is in the Box; and I must tell you, the Treasures of Princes are then greatest; not when their own Coffers are full only, but their Subjects rich.

For the raising of a sufficient *Fundus* to carry on the Fishery, if the Wisdom of this Nation shall think fit to lay one shilling, or some such sum, upon every Chaldron of Coals, it would much advance it; and it's but reasonable, that the advantage and benefit being general, that the charge should be so too; and methinks (but I humbly submit to more advanced judgments) that if *Ireland* and *Scotland* each of them built a good squadron of stout men of War, and maintained them at their own charges, they would be able to justify the Fishery against those who durst invade it, and fish without licence from his

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Majesty, or paying tribute, as formerly hath been used and practised; it would answer all their charges; and in case of a rupture with any Prince or State, those squadrons would be a great access of Power to his Majesty, howsoever, those Seas being well guarded; are the Lock and Key of Trade.

Look upon all the maritime Counties in *England*, and that County which hath ten Ports or more in it, there are not above one or two, if so many, which have any Trade considerable, or have any Ships belonging to them, but the Havens and Ports are decayed, the People in those Towns few, and desperately poor; whereas if the Fishery were established, the Port Towns through the Nation would be the richest, and best stocked with people, which would be the strength and security of the Nation against all Invasions, and would be a great enrichment to the whole Countrey, because they might sell and put off their Commodities so near, and to best advantage.

The *French* Kings which formerly never fished upon the *British* Seas, but by special leave from the Kings of *England*, and not otherwise, and that with a set and limited number of Boats, and that for their own Family, and likewise to observe the Laws and Orders of his own Fishermen; for breach whereof divers of their Subjects have forfeited their Vessels, and their persons have been seized and imprisoned in *Dover-Castle*. But of late the *French* are become so vexatious to us, that they have given a disturbance to us, not only upon the *British* Seas, but at *New-found-Land*; it's the interest of this Nation to give an interruption to their fishing there, and to prohibit them for the future; for the fishing there, is the Seminary and Nursery of their Sea-men, which may for the future prove fatal to us.

By the fishing of the *French* and of other Foreigners upon the *British* Sea, the Customs and Tolls which are undoubtedly due to his Majesty, together with the increase of Trade, and consequently of Customs thereby, are unjustly usurped by them, whereby this Kingdom loseth that which they gain, which is increase of Trade, of Ships, and Mariners, and thereby their Navigation is wonderfully strengthened, their Mariners multiplied, and their Trade increased. The

The Fishery being set up, Trade will flourish, the King's Revenue augmented, Lands and Rents improved, Navigation increased, and it will imploy some hundred thousands of men by Sea and Land, it will ease the Publick of great charges, in giving imployment to their poor: *Henry the Great of France* caused all vagrants and idle persons to be sent to serve in his Gallies, to oblige them *per force* to work; for idle persons who take not care to imploy themselves seriously in some thing, are unprofitable to themselves, and pernicious to the Publick: Therefore that State must necessarily be rich and prosperous, which hath *Argus* eyes to foresee advantages, and *Briareus* hands, and those imployed.

But, Sir, because great Trades cannot be managed, or things effected, without multitude of people, it would be prudence to invite Foreigners into this Nation, and to live here under such qualifications, as the Wisdom of the Nation shall think fit.

A small Countrey well peopled, will be able to effect things of more advantage and grandeur, than a great Dominion ill stocked.

The ancient *Romans* finding nothing was more necessary for great and important Enterprizes, than multitude of men, imployed their care and study to increase their numbers by Mariages, Colonies, and such like helps, making their conquered Armies free Denizens of their Common-wealth, by which means the number of the *Roman* Citizens became so great, that *Rome* could not be ruined, in *Hannibal's* judgement, by any force but her own; and this did so much contribute to the agrandizing of her, that that City only could arm six hundred and forty thousand men, when *Sparta* could never exceed twenty thousand, for that *Lycurgus* had inhibited the access of Strangers.

Theseus to engreaten and enrich the City of *Athens*, invited as many as would come and dwell there, assuring them to enjoy the self-same Liberties and Priviledges, which the very Citizens themselves had.

And we see the *United Provinces* of the *Netherlands*, which are not bigger than *Yorksire*, one County in *England*, by

their denizations and fair usage to Strangers, have so enriched and be-peopled that Countrey, that they have put to Sea more Ships, and driven a greater merchantile Trade to all parts of the World, than most of the Kings or Princes in *Europe*; *England* cometh so short in number of people from *Holland*, that whereas they are calculated to have six persons for one Acre of ground, *England* (I fear) hath hardly one for ten.

Howsoever I cannot observe, that it doth any ways comports with the interest of State, to suffer such multitudes of people to pass out of his Majesties Kingdoms into other Princes Dominions, or the Western Plantations, thereby to dis-furnish our selves of people; the sad consequences and effects whereof, are too visible in the misfortunes of *Spain*.

For since those Plantations by that King made in the *East* and *West-Indies*, and all along the Coast of *Africk*, and those great Garrisons maintained in *Milan*, *Naples*, *Sicily*, the *Low-Countries* consisting for the most part of natural *Spaniards*, they have so exhausted them of men, that *John* the first of *Portugal*, who reigned before the several Plantations of that people, was able to raise 40000 men for the War of *Africk*, whereas *Emanuel* who lived after those undertakings, had much ado to raise 20000 Foot and 3000 Horse on the same occasions; and *Sebastian* after that found as great difficulty to raise an Army of 12000 men.

And whether this may not be our sad fate, if not timely prevented, it's well becoming your great Judgement to consider.

And I can easily believe, that 1000 years since this Nation had much a greater stock of people than now it hath; for the *Rome-scot* or *Peter-pence*, which was but one penny a Chimney, (granted by *Offa* and *Ina*, *Saxon* Kings to the Pope) did amount unto 50000 *l.* yearly; and the Hearth money, which is two shillings the Hearth, (and one Chimney may have many Hearths) doth not amount unto 300000 *l.* yearly; whereas if the number of Chimneys charged with the *Rome-scot*, had been two shillings a Chimney, it would have amounted unto 1200000 *l.* yearly: So that we may conclude, there were

were then more Buildings and Chimneys, and so by consequence more People.

But where a Kingdom hath a great stock of People in it, it will be the test of Prudence in that State, not to suffer any City or Town in it too much to agrandize it self, or to attain to that magnitude, thereby to impoverish the other parts of the Kingdom; for certainly the over-growth of any one great City, is of dangerous consequence, not only in regard of Famine, such multitudes of mouths being not easily to be fed, but in respect of the great danger of Insurrections, if once those multitudes, sensible of their own strength, oppressed with want, or otherwise distempered with Famine, faction, or Discontent, should gather to a head, and break out into Action.

And therefore *Augustus Caesar*, like a wise Prince, made it his work to hinder the growth of *Rome*, abrogating all Laws, by which the Allies and Confederates of that State were made free Denizens of that City, for that he conceived to be a way to draw the whole Empire into one City, and by the prodigious increase of that to make poor the rest.

Naples by reason of its situation had advanced it self to an immense grandeur by Buildings, if the King by his Edict had not forbidden it, and this he did partly at the perswasion of his Nobles, who feared if such a restraint was not had, their Vassals would forsake the Countrey to inhabit there, but principally upon jealousy, and point of State, the better to prevent all revolts and mutinies, which in most populous Cities are of greatest danger; for as they are pronest unto Factions and Seditions, so is the consequence fatal both in it self and the example.

Certainly, Sir, too great a City in a Nation, is like a bad Spleen in the Body natural, which swells so big, as it makes all the other parts of the Body lean.

And to deal plainly with you, a great City is the fittest Engine to turn an old Monarchy into a new Common-wealth.

Therefore some considerate persons have conceived, that it would be more Prudence for a State to have three great Cities in it of equal power, that in case one should rebel, the other two might ballance, and give Law to the third.

And I pray, Sir, let me tell you, if you invite Strangers into this Nation, if you do not give them encouragement, I doubt whether they will come; for the *Spaniard*, to enrich the City of *Amwerp*, and other Cities in the *Low-Countries*, by the access and traffick of this Nation with them, freed us from divers Impositions, which his own natural Subjects usually paid.

And indeed if the Customs even as to the *English* were somewhat abated, it would much advance Trade.

I do not speak this to lessen his Majesties Revenue, (for I heartily wish it were more than it is) yet I think his Majesty would be no loser thereby; for a small Custom upon a great Trade, would answer a great Custom upon a small Trade; and it's more prudence to take little out of much, than much out of little: Where the Customs upon Merchants Goods are small, it easily draweth all Nations to trade with them, but where great Impositions are laid, the Traffick of that place will soon decay.

Two Ships laden at *Bordeaux* of equal Burden, viz. of 300 Tuns; the one goeth for *England*, the other for *Holland*; that which cometh into *England*, payeth for Custom, Price-edge, Butler-edge, and other Charges thereon, by Book of Rates, 1200 *l.* and upwards, before she be discharged; and the other going for *Holland*, is discharged for 60 *l.* sterling, or thereabouts; and after the Duties paid, and Wine sold, the buyer may transport them into any Countrey; but in *England* they cannot be transported, but the Merchant must be a great loser by them; for the *Hollander* can still under-sell him, and be a gainer thereby.

It would greatly advance the Interest of *England*, if by Act of *Parliament*, all persons of Honour and Quality, (only such persons as attend his Majesty, and the Courts of Justice, or such as should have his Majesties special Licence excepted) to live upon their Estates in the Countrey, and not to reside here constantly in Town; for thereby all their Rents are drawn up hither, where they are vainly spent, to say no worse, to the impoverishing of the Countrey, decay of their Tenants, and subversion of their Families: Here they change their old Seats
and

and Castles; (the illustrious monuments of their Honour) into new Coaches and Trains; some of them carry their Mills in their heads, and their Retinue their Woods and Lands on their backs.

Sir, I pray consult the Speech and Proclamation of the *Solomon* of his Age, King *James*; he was very earnest with the Nobility and Gentlemen to live in their Countrey-houses, and not in *London*, and would often say, that Gentlemen in *London*, are like Ships in the Sea, which shew like nothing, but in Countrey-Villages, they are like Ships in the River, which look like great things: And by the Edict of *Henry* the Great of *France*, made 1598. after the Peace of *Vermin*, the Nobility and Gentry were commanded to go and live every man upon his own Estate, improve their Lands, and take care for the well-government and peace of their Countrey. But many persons living here in luxury, they are become so effeminate, and degenerated from the true *English* Gallantry, and so little known to their Tenants, (but by their oppression, and exacting of their Rents) that if there should be any disturbance in their Countrey, they are of no more use, than a Sun-Dial in the Grave; nay, many of them are so unfit to serve their King and Countrey, that if there should be any disquiet, their presence there would prove but as Oyl to the Fire, only to inflame it.

Sir, There is one thing more, which would restore the ancient Prudence of this Nation, and add much Honour to you, and that is, to establish sumptuary Laws amongst us, as to Apparel, and superfluous Expences, according to the several degrees and qualities of persons, which would in a short time recover this Nation; which is no other than a wise and laudable parsimony, which the *Romans* and other well-governed States have used.

Augustus Caesar inforced the *Romans* to yield an account of their Lives; a course full of health and wisdom in a State, idleness being the root of all private vices, and publick disorders.

I cannot but commend the laudable Practice of the Great Duke of *Russia*; who doth constantly prescribe what Habit his People

People shall wear, for matter and fashion, suitable to their condition.

That wise Prince *Edward* the III. in the ninth, and one and thirtieth year of his Reign, caused sumptuary Laws to be ordained, to prevent riot and excess, (the hec tick Feaver of a State) both for Apparel and Diet, appointing every degree of Men, from the meanest Subject to the Prince, the Stuff and Habits they should wear, prohibiting the adornments of Gold and Silver, Silks and rich Furs, to all, excepting eminent Persons, whereby foreign Superfluities were shut out, and home Commodities only used. By this means these spreading Evils, which have since dis-fashioned and effeminated the *English* Nation, were prohibited.

Yet with submission to your great Judgement, I think the vanity of the excess of Apparel may be permitted under these restrictions : First, So as the expence doth not depend on such Commodities, as have too much of the substance of Gold, Silver, or Silk, whereby the publick Treasure is wasted. Secondly, That we impoverish not our selves to enrich Strangers, by preferring foreign Commodities, though worse, before our own, which are better. Thirdly, That the excess of the expence consist chiefly in the Art, Manufacture, and Workmanship of the Commodities made in our own Countrey, whereby Ingenuity would be encouraged, the People imployed, and our Treasure kept at home, so as the Prince would be nothing damnified by the excess; for the ruine of one would raise as much another of his Subjects, and Money would be more moving, which would be a great satisfaction to the People; and peradventure the conceit of the *Spaniard* may have some truth in it, that the excess and luxury of the Nobility, makes much for the Princes advantage, and renders his State more secure, because those which are given to rioting and luxury, are never gatherers and hoarders up of vast sums of money, which may prove the Instruments of Rebellion.

Then, Sir, all the Vanities, Toys, and Friperies, which *Madam la Mode* shall bring us, will be laid aside.

For want of such a Law, our Servants here imitating their Masters and Mistresses, must go very gay, and to support that
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vanity, demand three times more Wages than formerly, though they perform ten times less service, which is a great infelicity amongst us, and will lay a foundation of our ruine, if not timely prevented.

Certainly, Sir, *England* by reason of its situation, many safe Ports and Harbours, the richness of the Countrey in materials for Manufactures, if it were fully peopled, (and these industrious, and take their measures rightly) might exercise the greatest Merchantile Trade, and grow the richest People, in the Universe; for where the People are many, and the Arts good, there the Traffick must be great, and the Countrey rich.

It would be a great means to enrich this Nation by Trade, to increase the Exportation of our Commodities, and to decrease the consumption of foreign Wares; for that Commonwealth that excessively spendeth the foreign Commodities dear, and uttereth the native fewer and cheaper, shall enrich other Commonwealths, but beggar it self; whereas if it vented fewer of the foreign, and more of the native, the residue must return in Treasure; when foreign Materials are but Superfluities, foreign Manufactures must be prohibited, for that will either banish the Superfluity, or gain the Manufacture.

The consumption of our own Commodities must be frugal, for it will advance much yearly to be exported unto Strangers; if in our Cloaths we will be rich, let it be done with our own Manufactures and Materials, so the excess of the rich will be the employment of the poor.

Trades in remote Parts or Countreys, as *Turkey*, the *Indies*, ought to be encouraged, because of their great increase of Shipping and Mariners thereby, and because they return to more profit than those at hand.

All Commodities manufactured here in *England*, are to be made without deceit, which will give a value to them; and they are so to be ordered, that they may be sold as cheap as possibly we can; for it's found by experience, that we being able to sell our Cloth in *Turkey* cheaper than the *Venetians*, we have thereby yearly increased the vent thereof, and the *Vene-*

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ians have lost as much of their utterance in those Countreys, because it's dearer.

It's his Majesties undoubted Interest to promote Trade, by removing all obstructions, and giving it all encouragement.

It would be much for the advance of Trade, (but I humbly submit to the supream Authority) that all Manufactures made in *England* of foreign Materials, might be exported with a small Custom, as all manner of wrought Silks, because it would imploy many poor People, and cause more Materials to be brought in, to the increase of his Majesties Revenue, and of Trade, and the Manufacture would much more increase in *England*, and decrease in *France*, *Italy*, and elsewhere.

Native Commodities would not be charged with over-great Customs, and foreign Wares brought into *England* to be transported again, are to be favoured, otherwise this manner of Trading cannot prosper or subsist.

The manufacturing of any Commodity, doth redound more to the profit of the Common-wealth, than the Commodity it self, therefore it ought to be favoured; and the *Italians* get more Money by manufacturing of the raw Silks of *Sicily*, than the King of *Spain* and his Subjects have by the Silk it self; and there is five times more profit by the manufacturing of Wooll, than by the Wooll it self; compare the Wooll of *England* with its Cloth.

It would much advance Trade, to make the transferring of Bills of Debt valid in Law, because it would be a great advantage to Traders, (especially to young men, of small stocks) to be able to supply themselves with Money, by the sale of their own Bills of Debt.

To constitute a Court-Merchant after the example of *France*, and other Countreys, to prevent tedious and chargeable Suits in Law, taking men off from their Trade and Business, would much promote Trade.

Free Ports (if the Wisdom of the Nation shall think fit) would be of great consequence, as to improvement of Trade: Giving to Strangers as well as Natives, (upon payment of small

small Duties) liberty to keep Magazines, and Staples of Commodities, ready for transportation to other Countreys, according to encouragement of Markets abroad, they will much increase Trade, Navigation and Riches to *England*, as appears not only by *Holland*, which is a Common-wealth, but also by *St. Mallois*, under the Monarchy of *France*, and *Leroun*, under that of *Tuscany*; the first for its bigness, and containing above thirty six Acres, being the richest City in *France*; the other, all the Cities in that Princes Dominions not to compare with it.

These being observed, *France* may be compared to a man grasping a handful of fine Sand, (in hopes to keep it) if he holds it too loose, it runs from him; if hard, but little remains; which agreeth with the *Italian* Proverb, *Chi troppo abbraccia, poco stringe*, He who graspeth too much, retains too little.

But you have been pleased to say, That I have no kindness for *France*: Sir, I do assure you, I have that Honour for the Most Christian King, and Kindness for *France*, that whereas there is but one King in it, I wish that there were twenty.

The Consequences whereof, and the Advantages which will thereby accrew to *England*, are as follow.

1. The Power of *France* will be retrenched; for take away the Sinew of War, and you abate its Potency.

2. The value of Land will arise to thirty years purchase, whereas now it will give with much difficulty fifteen.

3. In the Woollen Drapery so many persons will be employed, that we shall not only consume the Wooll growing in *England*, but that of *Ireland* too, and so by consequence we must drive the Trade of the World, as to that Manufacture, and have our own prices for them; and our Neighbours being not supplied with any Wooll from us, their Manufacture will fail; the greatest part of those persons employed by them, will for want of employment, come over into *England*.

4. All our Ports and Sea-Towns will be full of Ships and Men, and flourish by their Trade.

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5. The Royal Fishery, (which will bring us more Riches to this Nation, than the *Indies* to the *Spaniard*) will be fully imployed.

6. We shall have such numbers of Ships, that we may trade into all Parts, and our Fishery and woollen Drapery will fully fraught us out, and in return bring us the Riches of the World.

7. *London* will be the *Emporium*, and great Mart of *Europe*, for all Commodities whatsoever.

8. We shall be fit for any foreign Action, or new Conquests.

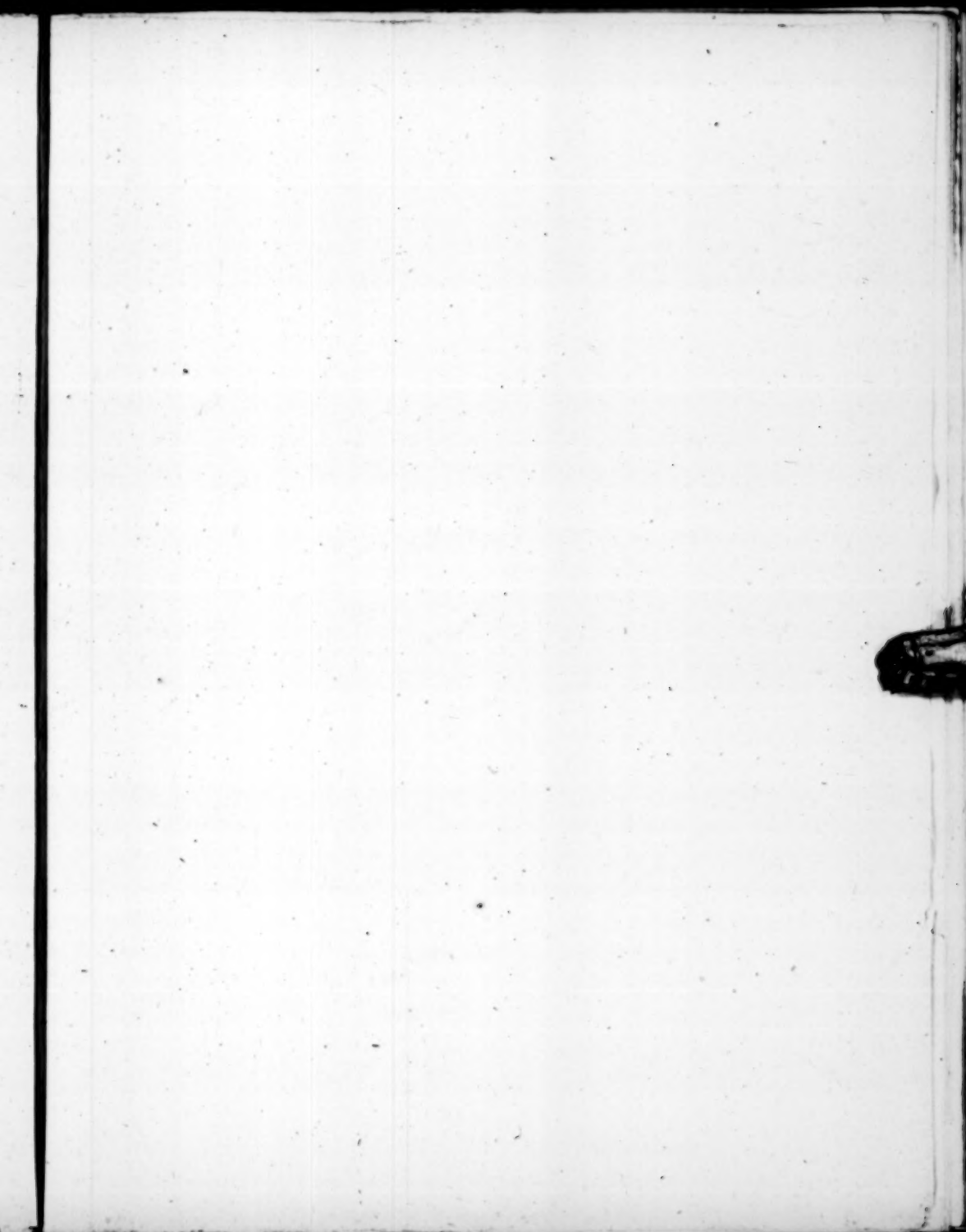
9. We shall be industrious to enlarge our Trade, having persons from all Parts amongst us, and which know what Commodities, and where they will vent with best profit.

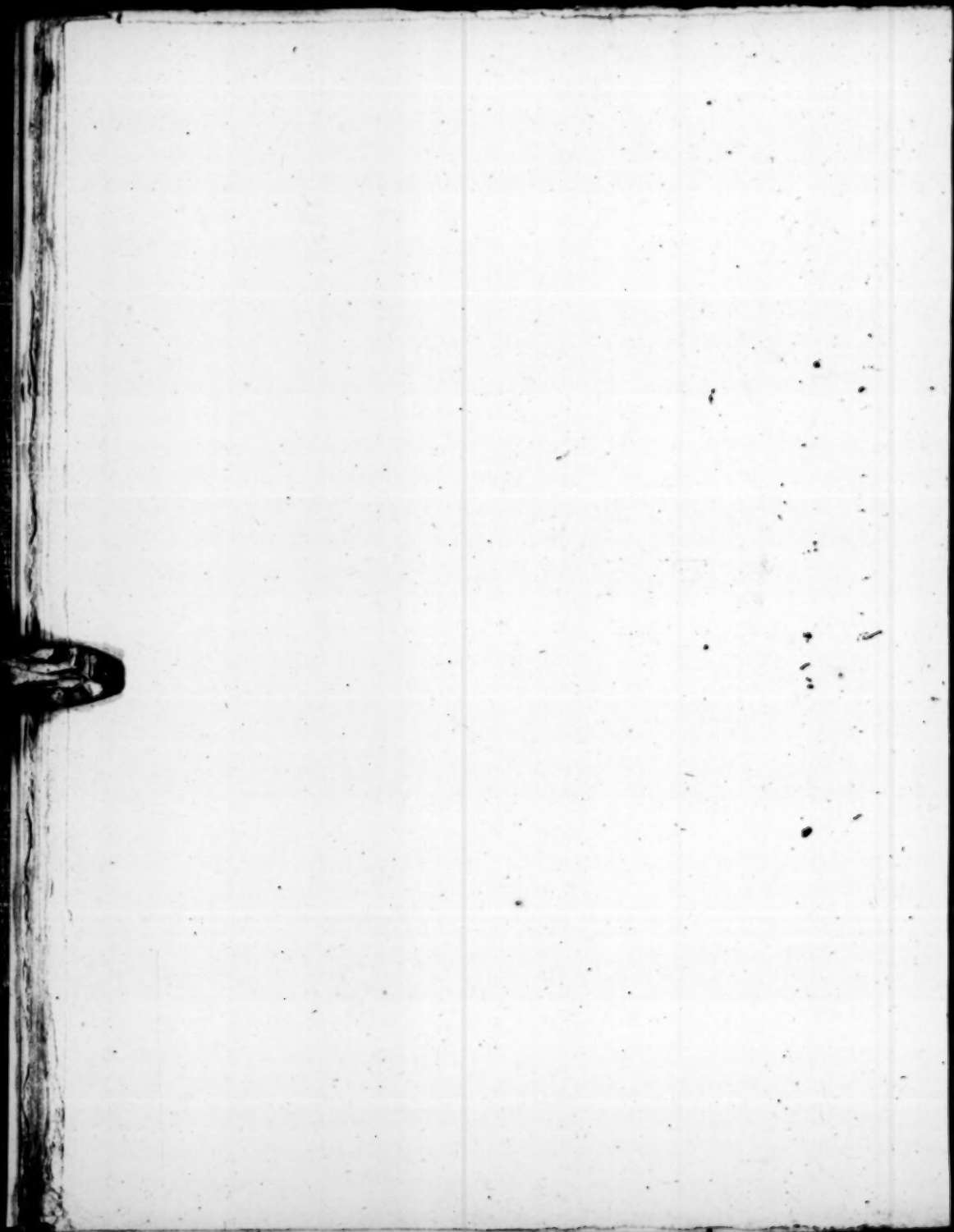
Sir, I crave your pardon for giving you this interruption to your more serious Affairs. I am,

Sir,

Your faithful Servant,

J. B.





From the second and first of these places
the above said first edition of the
"Liberator" was published by the
author of the "Liberator" of New York
of 1841-42. The last edition was
published by George J. Bethel.

It is a great pleasure to find that the
"Liberator" of New York, who has been
often called the name of the author
has now mentioned by Mr. Webster as a

Admirable workman with a great deal of
the "Liberator" of New York, but I am not
sure of the accuracy of the statement. I
am a strong advocate of the "Liberator"
(Boston) the "Liberator" of New York
is a very different work, and is a
very different work, and is a
very different work.